The 2015 Samuel Dash Conference on Human Rights will consider the protection of the human rights of migrants – and in particular asylum-seekers and others who merit international protection – in the context of efforts by states to externalize control and enforcement of migration worldwide. The event will feature the release of a new HRI report on the protection of the human rights of migrant children in Southern Mexico as well as a discussion of changes in U.S. law, policy and practice that could enhance rights protections in the Americas.

The Samuel Dash Conference on Human Rights was established by Samuel Dash's family and friends, Georgetown Law alumni and the law firm of Cozen O'Connor to honor Dash's contributions to international human rights and domestic civil rights. Professor Dash passed away in 2004.
The Tenth Annual Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute
Samuel Dash Conference on Human Rights

Conference Program:

9:30 Coffee & Registration

9:45 Welcome Remarks

Speakers: Andrew I. Schoenholtz, Professor from Practice & Director, Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute
Ian M. Kysel, Dash/Muse Fellow & Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute

10:00 Panel I: Immigration Enforcement Practices in Southern Mexico and Migrant Children’s Access to International Protection

The migration of children and families in the Americas, and in particular in and through Central America, raises important questions about the protection of human rights. In January, HRI sent a team to Mexico and Guatemala to investigate the protection of migrant children apprehended by Mexican immigration authorities. Our first panel will feature a presentation of findings regarding the protection of the human rights of migrant children in Southern Mexico.

Panelists: Andres Echevarria, Noah Gimbel, Lindsey Keiser, Odile Leonard, Mary Nelson, Aileen Nguyen, Nicholas Stefaniak, Members of the Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute Fact-Finding Project

12:00 Lunch & Keynote Address

Speaker: Francois Crépeau, McGill University Hans and Tamar Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law and United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants

1:45 Coffee Break
2:00 Panel II: U.S. Law, Policy & Practice and Access to Humanitarian Protection in the Americas

The United States provides significant bilateral and multilateral assistance throughout the Americas, including assistance that directly or indirectly relates to both the management of migration as well as the protection of human and migrants’ rights. Our second panel will feature a discussion of changes in U.S. law, policy and practice that could ensure that such assistance contributes to enhancing access to humanitarian protection in the Americas.

Panelists: Shaina Aber, Policy Director, National Advocacy Office, Jesuit Conference, The Society of Jesus in the United States and Canada
Bill Frelick, Director, Refugee Rights Program, Human Rights Watch
Shelly Pitterman, Regional Representative, Regional Office for the U.S. and the Caribbean, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Jennifer Podkul, Senior Program Officer, Migrant Rights and Justice Program, Women’s Refugee Commission & Adjunct Professor of Law

Moderator: Ian M. Kysel, Dash/Muse Fellow & Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute

4:00 Closing Remarks

Speaker: Andrew I. Schoenholtz, Professor from Practice & Director, Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute

4:15 Reception